



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

CENTRAL ASIAN REPUBLICS

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Monthly Newsletter

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Regional news

USAID Assistance Results in \$64 million of Grants to Fight HIV/AIDS in Central Asia

The Global Fund to fight HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria (GFATM) announced recently that it will provide over \$64 million over five years to fund HIV/AIDS activities in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. These awards were received with extensive assistance from USAID. Over the past year, USAID projects, in collaboration with UNAIDS, trained region's experts on how to develop successful applications for funding from GFATM and extended technical support in drafting them. The Kazakhstan award (over \$35 million), requires some clarifications and a final approval from the GFATM. USAID is offering support in finalizing this award, which is designed to scale up HIV prevention among vulnerable populations.



HIV/AIDS prevention in the region is one of USAID's priority areas of work in Central Asia. Photo: USAID

Exam Revenues Propel Central Asia's Accounting Certification Body into Sustainability

A USAID-supported regional accounting certification body generated \$1.9 million in revenues from exams in Kazakhstan in November, covering examination costs not only in Kazakhstan but for the entire Central Asia. This certification body, called the Eurasian Council of Certified Accountants and Auditors (ECCAA), was established with extensive support from USAID accounting projects ten years ago. USAID has been helping it design and administer exams for the internationally-recognized qualifications of Certified Accountant Practitioner or Certified International Professional Accountant. Each qualification requires multiple exams and draws thousands of applicants. Since 1997, nearly 80,000 exam papers have been submitted in the five Central Asian Republics.



Each year, USAID supports a range of events and activities to increase HIV/AIDS awareness in the region. Photo: CAPACITY

World AIDS Day Highlights HIV/AIDS Initiatives in Central Asia

USAID projects conducted a number of events across the region to mark World AIDS Day and to increase awareness of HIV/AIDS. Two USAID-funded projects, the Central Asian Program for AIDS Control Interventions Targeting Youth (CAPACITY) project and the Drug Demand Reduction Project (DDRP), arranged concerts, contests, and screenings of documentaries, conducted TV debates on stigma around HIV/AIDS, and carried out other informational and educational events. Throughout the year, the two USAID-funded projects reach out to thousands of people in target areas across the region with training, outreach and counseling on HIV and drug use prevention. In Tajikistan alone, USAID-funded activities reached more than 42,000 vulnerable youth in 2007.



More than 6,000 Kazakhstanians took accounting qualification exams in November, generating \$1.9 million in fees. Photo: Pragma



Kyrgyzstan

Election support in Kyrgyzstan

USAID is providing elections assistance in Kyrgyzstan leading up to the parliamentary elections on December 16, 2007. Aside from continued political party strengthening work by the International Republican Institute and the National Democratic Institute and assistance to the Central Election Commission through IFES, USAID is supporting election monitoring (both domestic and international), training for political party poll-watchers, a voters' rights campaign, a series of television debates, and a national poll.



In addition to ongoing political party strengthening work, USAID funds a range of activities designed to support election process directly. Photo: USAID

Turkmenistan

Three Million Children and Women in Turkmenistan Receive Vaccination from Measles and Rubella

In November, the Ministry of Health of Turkmenistan carried out a national vaccination campaign that will prevent children and women from contracting measles or rubella. The campaign was supported by UNICEF, the World Health Organization (WHO), the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC), and USAID. This was the first vaccination campaign against measles and rubella in Turkmenistan. The vaccination was carried out in health facilities, schools, and workplaces, and covered over half of the entire country's population. According to WHO, measles remains a leading cause of death among children worldwide, despite the availability of a safe and effective vaccine for the past 40 years.



More than a half of Turkmenistan's population received vaccination from measles and rubella this year with support from the U.S. Government. Photo: ZdravPlus

Turkmenistan Approves the Communication Strategy for its National Tuberculosis (TB) Program

Signed by the Minister of Health, the Communication Strategy was developed with technical support from the USAID TB program, implemented by Project HOPE. It outlines social mobilization, information, and communication activities to be conducted as part of the National TB Program. The Thematic Working Group that prepared the document included representatives from the National TB Program, Ministry of Health Press Center, the TB Faculty of the State Medical Institute, WHO, the USAID TB program, and other state and international partner organizations. Participants expect that this strategy will be an essential element in the fight against tuberculosis in Turkmenistan.



The TB Communication Strategy outlines educational and informational activities that will be used to educate population about TB. Photo: Project HOPE



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USAID's Tuberculosis (TB) Treatment Program Expands its Geographic Coverage in Turkmenistan

Recently, USAID's TB program expanded to three new towns and five new districts in Balkan Province, and now covers the entire province with its pilots. This expansion supports the implementation of the Turkmenistan National TB Program, which envisions nationwide DOTS implementation by 2009. DOTS stands for Directly Observed Treatment Short-course strategy, recommended for treatment of TB by the World Health Organization. In preparation for this expansion, the program, together with specialists from the State Medical Institute and the National TB Program, trained TB doctors, laboratory specialists, and primary healthcare doctors and nurses in DOTS, and provided microscopes and supplies to local laboratories. USAID's TB program, implemented by Project HOPE, currently covers the cities of Ashgabat, Mary, and the Balkan Region.



USAID projects are helping the Government of Turkmenistan to introduce a WHO-recommended TB treatment approach countrywide. Photo: Project HOPE

Uzbekistan

International Roundtable Discusses Security, Human Rights, and Cooperation

An International Roundtable "Democratic Development: Security, Human Rights and Cooperation for the Future" was held in Tashkent in November with funding from USAID. The forum was attended by experts and political scientists from Uzbekistan, France, Germany, Great Britain, Ireland, Netherlands, Poland, Russia, and the U.S.. Participants discussed the role that civil society and political parties play in the process of developing democratic government institutions that protect security and promote human rights. The forum also developed joint recommendations for the future cooperation. The forum was organized by the National Democratic Institute (whose programs are funded by USAID), OSCE, and the Foundation of Regional Policy.



Participants from Uzbekistan and other countries discussed how to protect security and promote human rights. Photo: USAID

Improved Water Management to Increase Crop Productivity

An irrigation system, renovated with USAID support, will increase farmland productivity by 15% and reduce water consumption by 25% at the "Kanal Suv Yuli" water users association in Djizzak Province. The USAID-funded Water Users Associations Support Project helped the "Kanal Suv Yuli" association to plan and conduct rehabilitation of their irrigation and drainage system. From 2005-2007 the community rehabilitated 3.8 km of irrigation ditches and 2.6 km of drainage system, built 1.5 km drainage canal, and installed a water measuring device and five gates at water distribution points. These renovations will improve access to water for nearly one hundred farms and garden lots representing 1,800 hectares of irrigated lands.



The USAID-funded project is helping farmers to restore their irrigation systems and improve harvests from their fields. Photo: WUASP